



# **MARYLAND** **VENDOR UPDATE** Spring 2005

A Publication of the Maryland WIC Program  
 Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Family Health Administration  
 Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary



## **Minimum Stock Requirements**

All vendors were notified in January about changes in the minimum stock requirements for WIC vendors. Those changes became effective December 22, 2004. All vendors must now stock infant formula in the following quantities:

- 31 13 ounce cans of Enfamil W/Iron Concentrate
- 31 13 ounce cans of Enfamil W/Iron Lipil Concentrate
- 31 13 ounce cans of Prosobee Concentrate
- 31 13 ounce cans of Prosobee Lipil Concentrate
- 4 14.3 ounce cans of Enfamil W/Iron Powder
- 4 12.9 ounce cans of Enfamil W/Iron Lipil Powder
- 4 14.3 ounce cans of Prosobee Powder
- 4 12.9 ounce cans of Prosobee Lipil Powder



Other changes that became effective are that all WIC authorized vendors, with the exception of pharmacies, must be food stamp authorized prior to applying for WIC authorization. If you have any questions regarding the minimum stock requirements, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258 or 1-800-242-4WIC(4942) toll free.

## **WIC Authorized Cheese**

**In response to confusion regarding WIC authorized cheese, the following is provided:**

Deli sliced cheese is no longer allowed (this includes cheese pre-sliced and packaged in the store). Cheese is limited to one package 12-16 ounces in weight, unless the WIC check prescribes a Kosher food package indicating one package 8 to 16 ounces in weight. WIC participants are not limited to store brands for cheese. Please contact this office if you have questions.

## **Public Law 108-265**

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, enacted on June 30, 2004 contains a number of provisions that directly impact WIC authorized vendors. Some of these provisions are:

- State Agencies may not authorize vendors that derive more than 50 percent of their annual food sales from WIC.
- State Agencies must demonstrate that reimbursement levels for vendors currently authorized and deriving more than 50 percent of their annual food sales from WIC do not result in higher food costs than if participants were to use other vendors.
- State Agencies may not make payments to vendors with more than 50 percent of annual food sales from WIC that offer incentive items or other free merchandise, except food or merchandise of nominal value, unless the vendor provides proof of obtaining the items or merchandise at no cost.
- State Agencies must maintain a list of infant formula wholesalers, distributors, and retailers licensed in the State, and formula manufacturers registered with FDA, from which authorized vendors shall purchase infant formula.



Some of the provisions of Public Law 108-265 require additional guidance from USDA prior to being officially implemented by the Office of the Maryland WIC Program. You will be kept abreast of changes as they occur.

## **New Product Alert**



General Mills recently announced that all of its cereals now include whole grain. This fact is now reflected prominently on the cereal boxes. Currently, seven General Mills cereals are included in the 2004 Maryland WIC Authorized Foods List. They are allowed for WIC purchase in their new whole grain form.

Libby's Juicy Juice has introduced two new flavors; Strawberry Banana and Watermelon. These flavors are not included in the 2004 Maryland WIC Authorized Foods List, and are not authorized for WIC purchase. If you have any questions, please contact this office.



## Cashier Training Schedule



The 2005 Cashier Training Schedule was mailed to all vendors in January. Cashier training is optional and is offered at locations across the state to accommodate WIC vendors with staff training needs. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these training opportunities. Regular cashier training can help vendors stay

aware of changes that occur with the program and WIC foods, and reduce the likelihood of sanctions and lost revenue due to cashier error.

The following cashier training dates are available this Spring:

Caroline County	April 8
Howard County	April 15
Queen Anne's County	May 12
Wicomico County	May 18
Prince George's County	May 19
Baltimore County	May 26



To take advantage of this training, please select a date and site your store trainer and/or cashiers would like to attend, complete the enclosed cashier training registration form, and mail or fax it **at least five days in advance of the training date to:**

Frances McRae-Washington  
Office of the Maryland WIC Program  
MD Dept. Health & Mental Hygiene  
201 W. Preston Street, Room 103  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-333-5683 (FAX)

If you have questions, or need more information regarding cashier training or any other WIC vendor training need, please contact Frances McRae-Washington at 410-767-5433 or toll free 1-800-242-4942.

## Moving or Selling Your Store?

If you are moving or selling your store, please notify the Maryland WIC Program at least 15 days in advance. **Selling your store does not transfer your WIC**

**authorization!** The new owner must apply to the Maryland WIC Program for authorization. You are also required to return your WIC vendor stamps to the Maryland WIC Program. If you have questions, or plan to sell or relocate your store, please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251 or 1-800-242-4WIC.



## Vendor Feedback

We want to make your participation in the WIC Program a rewarding experience. **WE NEED YOU!** Your input is valued and strongly encouraged.

If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258 or 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.



*The Vendor Update is a publication of the Maryland WIC Program.*

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